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**CREDITON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

For the Year 1958



STAFF

Medical Officer of Health
N. SAWERS, M.B., Ch. B.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector
G. C. EDGINTON, (M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.)

Clerk
Mrs. P. M. GILL

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1958.

SECTION A

1. Statistics of the Area

Area (in acres)	1,096
Registrar General's estimate of population...	4,220
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1958 according to the rate books	1,684
Rateable Value	£53,751
Product of a Penny Rate	£217

2. Vital Statistics

(a) Live Births

Male	Female	Total
50	38	88

Births illegitimate

Male	Female	Total
3	5	8

Crude birth rate per 1,000 of population 12.80

Corrected birth rate per 1,000 of population 12.28

Live Birth rate for England and Wales in 1958 was 16.4

(b) Still Births

There were no still births in 1958.

(c) Deaths

(a) Death Rate

Male	Female	Total
22	22	44

Average age of death 69 years.

Crude death rate per 1,000 of population 10.19

Corrected death rate per 1,000 of population 8.25

(b) Deaths from puerperal causes

1958 — Nil

(c) Infantile Mortality

(Deaths of infants under one year of age)

1958 — Nil

(d) **Causes of death as follows :—**

	Males	Females	Total
Cardio Vascular	14	12	26
Central Nervous System	—	—	—
Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—
Accident	2	1	3
Other diseases than Cancer	3	5	8
Cancer			
Lungs	1		
Stomach	1		
Bowel	2		
Other sites	3		
	—		
Total	7		

(e) **Deaths from Zymotic Diseases**

Measles	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil
Scarlet Fever	Nil
Enteric Fever	Nil
Diarrhoea	Nil

SECTION B

3. General Provisions of Health Services in the area

(a) **Nursing Service**

This is carried out by a District Nurse who is employed by the Devon County Council.

(b) **Care of Mothers and Young Children**

A Health Visitor is assigned to this District.

(c) **Midwifery**

The District Nurse attends the Home confinements and Home Helps provided by the Devon County Council are available if the circumstances warrant it. Should home conditions be unsuitable for a confinement arrangements are made for the mother to go to Redhills Hospital, Exeter.

(d) **Clinic and Treatment Centres, Maternity and Child Welfare**

This is held weekly at Newcombes. Total attendances were as follows :

Mothers	Children	Total
1,637	2,055	3,692

A large number of vaccinations and diphtheria immunisations are carried out at this Clinic. Attention is drawn to the fact that it is very essential that immunisation against diphtheria should be carried out.

(e) **Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases**

There are no centres in Crediton for these diseases. Cases of Tuberculosis are seen by the Tuberculosis Officer at Ivybank, Exeter, and he then decides whether they are nursed at home or sent to Hawkmoor Sanatorium.

(f) **Infectious Diseases**

These are nursed at home and if the Doctor in attendance considers they should be transferred to hospital they are removed to Whipton Isolation Hospital.

(g) **Ambulances**

The ambulance service for Crediton and District is now administered by the Medical Department of the Devon County Council and is staffed and run by the Crediton Branch of the Red Cross.

(h) **Laboratory Work**

Where investigations are of a public health nature e.g. throat swabs, sputum, blood for typhoid, public water supplies, etc., these are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Exeter, as part of the National Health Service. All other investigations are carried out in the Pathology Department of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. Water Supply

During the year the Council's sources continued to produce an adequate supply for all requirements.

Walson

During the year twentyfour samples were taken of water from this source with the following results :—

Contamination before chlorination	5
Pure before chlorination	6
Satisfactory after chlorination	13

All samples which had been taken from various parts of the town after the supply had been chlorinated were satisfactory.

Uton

Thirtytwo samples were taken for Bacteriological Examination from this source all of which were satisfactory.

General

During the year the distribution main from Stoneypark reservoir to Barnfield was diverted to allow for a new Secondary Modern School to be built.

2. Drainage and Sewerage

The Council's works at Lords Meadow continue to be inefficient and this matter will have to be faced up to in the near future as the sludge cannot be dried and is gaining access to the river.

Exeter Road and Fordton are still the cause of a serious nuisance and the Mill Leat is now becoming extremely foul.

3. Public Cleansing and Refuse Disposal

House refuse is collected weekly and disposed of on the Council's Punchbcwl tip. This uncontrolled tipping leaves much to be desired but is so far removed from dwellings that complaints are not received.

4. Inspections made for the Enforcement of the Building Byelaws

Foundations	60
Over site concrete	48
Damp-proof course	48
Drain tests	84
Routine	48
Completion	48
Total	<hr/> 336

5. Moveable Dwellings

There are three licensed sites within the area.

1 Orchard behind Glencreeedy, Mill Street.

There are three caravans on this site used as dwellings and the approval given under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 has to be renewed yearly.

2 The Old Fairground, Mill Street.

This had an existing use for caravans when the Town & Country Planning Act, 1947 came into force. It is used during the winter months by people engaged in the fairground business. There is also one caravan sited there permanently and used as a dwelling.

- 3 Land at rear of 36 High Street.
This site is licensed for three caravans.
- 4 There are also two sites licences for caravans at Park Cottage and the rear of 94 High Street.

6. Schools

The water supplies and the sanitary conditions at the schools are satisfactory.

7. Inspection and Supervision of Food

Unsound Foods

The amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption was as follows :—

No. of tins	36
Other Foods	
Ham	12-lb. 10-ozs.

Meat

There is one slaughterhouse licensed within the district. There has been a 100 per cent inspection of animals killed.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part were as follows :—

	Cattle	Calves	Lambs	Pigs
No. Killed	204	5	235	203

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	Nil	1	3

Tuberculosis only

Whole Carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	Nil	Nil	3

No cases of Cysticercosis were discovered.

8. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act. 1949

Complaints of infestation by rats and mice are investigated and where necessary treatments are carried out by one of the Council's workmen.

SECTION D

Housing

During the year the Council's estate at Butt Parks was almost completed enabling many persons in slum clearance houses to be rehoused.

The following houses were constructed during the year
Council 44

Private Enterprise 4

During the year 11 houses were allocated to persons from Slum Clearance Areas and a further 5 houses allocated to families from individually unfit houses. Twentyfive houses in Clearance Areas were then demolished.

Unfit houses still remain and one of the major concerns of the Council is that many of the people still in Clearance Areas require one bedroom type accommodation but this should be relieved when the sixteen flats at Stanbury Court are completed.

Two applications for Improvement Grants were received and agreed

Notices

Time and Place Notices under Section 11 — 4

In all instances the owners undertaking not to re-let for human habitation was accepted.

SECTION E

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

Anterior Poliomyelitis	Nil
Smallpox	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil
Enteric Group	Nil

New Cases of Tuberculosis 1

